

TALK WITH THE HAND - AN OVERVIEW

WHAT IS TALK WITH THE HAND?

TWTH is a group of documents that Amateur Radio organizations and individual ham operators can use to conduct interactive, educational exercises with the non-ham public. It was designed to be especially useful as a hands-on activity for visitors to Field Day operations and other such events.

As such, TWTH gives the public an introduction into the International Morse code with a bit about its history, and especially its application to radio communications. The advantages of CW as compared to voice are discussed, and there is an emphasis on Morse code's enduring value and legacy in spite of the trend toward digital communications.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF TWTH?

* `Talk_With_The_Hand_1` is a four-page PDF document that introduces Morse code, beginning with its birth as a communications mode used over landline telegraphy, followed by Morse being adapted to wireless and finally, radio. Included are graphics of a typical telegraph key and a sounder, and a chart of the English-language version of the International Morse code. Visitors are encouraged to practice sending SOS, the universal distress signal, and to also send their initials, as an exercise activity.

* `Talk_With_The_Hand_2` is a single sheet PDF that serves as a take-away certificate given to those individuals who complete the exercise. The ham operator who oversees the event will sign the document and present it to the person as a token of recognition.

* Further TWTH components are being contemplated, including a document recognizing successful memorization of the complete Morse alphabet. This overview document you are reading will be updated to include future extensions of the TWTH concept.

HOW DO I ADMINISTER TWTH?

Other than enthusiasm and an engaging manner, the only things needed are a straight key, a code practice oscillator, and a venue. Either have the four-pager available as a handout (preferred) or have a copy of it available for reading on the table (print each page separately and have them laid out within page protectors). Have a stack of the certificates ready, and be prepared to authenticate them and present them with much ado, especially when very young people are the recipients.

A friendly attitude projected at the table will contribute to visitors going away with a favorable impression of Amateur Radio and, who knows, they very well may decide to join our ranks some day.

“TALK WITH THE HAND”

COURTESY OF THE ROANOKE DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO™

WWW.ARRL-ROANOKE.COM